

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 95

To provide for Federal campaign finance reform, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 21, 1997

Mr. DORGAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To provide for Federal campaign finance reform, and for
other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF CAMPAIGN ACT;**

4 **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

5 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
6 “Campaign Finance Reform Act of 1997”.

7 (b) AMENDMENT OF FECA.—When used in this Act,
8 the term “FECA” means the Federal Election Campaign
9 Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.)

10 (c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; amendment of campaign act; table of contents.

TITLE I—SENATE ELECTION SPENDING LIMITS

Sec. 101. Senate election spending limits.

TITLE II—REDUCTION IN SPECIAL INTEREST INFLUENCE

Sec. 201. Soft money of political parties.

Sec. 202. Definition of independent expenditure.

Sec. 203. Prohibition on contributions by foreign nationals.

Sec. 204. Broadcast media rates.

TITLE III—INCREASE IN VOTER PARTICIPATION

Sec. 301. Credit for contributions to congressional candidates.

Sec. 302. Study on voter participation in Federal elections.

1 **TITLE I—SENATE ELECTION**
 2 **SPENDING LIMITS**

3 **SEC. 101. SENATE ELECTION SPENDING LIMITS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—FECA is amended by adding at
 5 the end the following new title:

6 **“TITLE V—SENATE ELECTION**
 7 **SPENDING LIMITS**

 “TITLE V—ELECTION SPENDING LIMITS

 “Subtitle A—Senate Election Campaigns

 “Sec. 501. Expenditure limitations.

 “Sec. 502. Contribution limitations.

 “Sec. 503. Eligible Senate candidate.

 “Subtitle B—Administrative Provisions

 “Sec. 521. Imposition of fee on Senate candidates exceeding limits.

 “Sec. 522. Judicial review.

 “Sec. 523. Reports to Congress; certifications; regulations.

8 **“Subtitle A—Senate Election**
 9 **Campaign Limits**

10 **“SEC. 501. EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible Senate candidate
 12 may not make expenditures with respect to any election

1 aggregating more than the limit applicable to the election
 2 under subsection (b).

3 “(b) APPLICABLE LIMITS.—For purposes of sub-
 4 section (a), except as otherwise provided in this subtitle—

5 “(1) GENERAL ELECTION EXPENDITURE
 6 LIMIT.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The limit for a gen-
 8 eral election shall be equal to the lesser of—

9 “(i) \$5,500,000; or

10 “(ii) the greater of—

11 “(I) \$950,000; or

12 “(II) \$400,000, plus an amount
 13 equal to the sum of 30 cents multi-
 14 plied by the voting age population not
 15 in excess of 4,000,000, and 25 cents
 16 multiplied by the voting age popu-
 17 lation in excess of 4,000,000.

18 “(B) SPECIAL RULE WHERE ONLY 1
 19 TRANSMITTER.—In the case of an eligible Sen-
 20 ate candidate in a State which has no more
 21 than 1 transmitter for a commercial Very High
 22 Frequency (VHF) television station licensed to
 23 operate in that State, subclause (II) of para-
 24 graph (1)(B)(ii) shall be applied by substituting

1 ‘80 cents’ for ‘30 cents’ and ‘70 cents’ for ‘25
2 cents’.

3 “(2) PRIMARY ELECTION EXPENDITURE
4 LIMIT.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
6 subparagraph (B), the limit for a primary elec-
7 tion is an amount equal to the lesser of—

8 “(i) 67 percent of the general election
9 expenditure limit under paragraph (1), or

10 “(ii) \$2,750,000.

11 The Secretary shall adjust the dollar amount
12 under clause (ii) as of the beginning of each
13 calendar year based on the increase in the price
14 index determined under section 315(c), except
15 that the base period shall be calendar year
16 1997.

17 “(B) CERTAIN PRIMARY ELECTIONS
18 TREATED AS GENERAL ELECTIONS.—If a pri-
19 mary election may result in the election of a
20 person to a Federal office, the limit for the elec-
21 tion is the general election expenditure limit
22 under paragraph (1).

23 “(3) RUNOFF ELECTION EXPENDITURE
24 LIMIT.—The limit for a runoff election is an amount

1 equal to 20 percent of the general election expendi-
2 ture limit under paragraph (1).

3 “(c) PAYMENT OF TAXES.—The limitations under
4 subsection (b) shall not apply to any expenditure for Fed-
5 eral, State, or local taxes with respect to earnings on con-
6 tributions raised.

7 **“SEC. 502. CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS.**

8 “(a) PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible Senate can-
10 didate may not, with respect to an election cycle,
11 make contributions or loans to his or her own cam-
12 paign from personal funds totaling more than the
13 lesser of—

14 “(A) 10 percent of the general election
15 limit under section 501(b), or

16 “(B) \$250,000.

17 “(2) AGGREGATION.—For purposes of para-
18 graph (1), any contribution or loan to a candidate’s
19 campaign by a member of the candidate’s immediate
20 family shall be treated as made by the candidate.

21 “(b) AGGREGATE CONTRIBUTIONS.—An eligible Sen-
22 ate candidate may not solicit or receive contributions with
23 respect to any election in excess of the limit under section
24 501 for that election.

1 **“SEC. 503. ELIGIBLE SENATE CANDIDATE.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subtitle, a
3 candidate is an eligible Senate candidate if the can-
4 didate—

5 “(1) meets the filing requirements of subsection
6 (b); and

7 “(2) meets, and continues to meet, the expendi-
8 ture and contribution limits of sections 501 and 502.

9 “(b) FILING REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of
10 this subsection are met if, not later than the date the can-
11 didate files as a candidate for the primary election with
12 the appropriate State election official (or, if earlier, not
13 later than 30 days before the election), the candidate files
14 with the Secretary of the Senate a declaration that—

15 “(1) the candidate will meet the expenditure
16 and contribution limits of this subtitle;

17 “(2) the candidate will furnish campaign
18 records, evidence of contributions, and other appro-
19 priate information to the Commission; and

20 “(3) the candidate will cooperate in the case of
21 any audit and examination by the Commission and
22 will pay any amounts required to be paid under sec-
23 tion 521.

1 **“Subtitle B—Administrative**
 2 **Provisions**

3 **“SEC. 521. IMPOSITION OF FEE ON SENATE CANDIDATES**
 4 **EXCEEDING LIMITS.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Any candidate for election to the
 6 office of United States Senator (whether or not an eligible
 7 Senate candidate) who makes expenditures with respect
 8 to any election in excess of the limit applicable to such
 9 election under section 501 shall pay to the Commission
 10 an amount equal to 50 percent of the excess.

11 “(b) TIME FOR DETERMINATION AND PAYMENT.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A candidate shall deter-
 13 mine the amount of any excess expenditures on the
 14 basis of the quarterly reports required to be filed
 15 under section 304(a)(2) and payment of any fee im-
 16 posed under subsection (a) shall be included with
 17 such report. Such determination (and any such pay-
 18 ment) shall also be made at the time of any pre-elec-
 19 tion and post-general election report under such sec-
 20 tion.

21 “(2) COMMISSION DETERMINATION.—The Com-
 22 mission may make its own determination under
 23 paragraph (1) if—

24 “(A) a report described in paragraph (1) is
 25 not filed, or

1 “(B) the Commission has reason to believe
2 such report is not accurate.

3 “(c) PAYMENT OF FEES.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall, as
5 soon as practicable after receipt of any payment
6 under subsection (b), pay to opposing eligible Senate
7 candidates of the candidate making the payment
8 their allocable share of the payment.

9 “(2) ALLOCABLE SHARE.—The Commission
10 shall by regulation provide for 1 or more methods
11 for allocating payments under paragraph (1). The
12 Commission shall issue final regulations under this
13 paragraph not later than January 1, 1998.

14 **“SEC. 522. JUDICIAL REVIEW.**

15 “(a) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any agency action by the
16 Commission made under the provisions of this title shall
17 be subject to review by the United States Court of Appeals
18 for the District of Columbia Circuit upon petition filed in
19 such court within 30 days after the agency action by the
20 Commission for which review is sought. It shall be the
21 duty of the Court of Appeals, ahead of all matters not
22 filed under this title, to advance on the docket and expedi-
23 tiously take action on all petitions filed pursuant to this
24 title.

1 “(b) APPLICATION OF TITLE 5.—The provisions of
2 chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply to
3 judicial review of any agency action by the Commission.

4 “(c) AGENCY ACTION.—For purposes of this section,
5 the term ‘agency action’ has the meaning given such term
6 by section 551(13) of title 5, United States Code.

7 **“SEC. 523. REPORTS TO CONGRESS; CERTIFICATIONS; REG-**
8 **ULATIONS.**

9 “(a) REPORTS.—The Commission shall, as soon as
10 practicable after each election, submit a full report to the
11 Senate and House of Representatives setting forth—

12 “(1) the expenditures (shown in such detail as
13 the Commission determines appropriate) made by
14 each eligible candidate and the authorized commit-
15 tees of such candidate; and

16 “(2) the amount of payments, if any, required
17 under section 521.

18 “(b) DETERMINATIONS BY COMMISSION.—Subject to
19 section 522, all determinations made by the Commission
20 under this title shall be final and conclusive.

21 “(c) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The Commission is
22 authorized to prescribe such rules and regulations, in ac-
23 cordance with the provisions of subsection (d), to conduct
24 such audits, examinations and investigations, and to re-
25 quire the keeping and submission of such books, records,

1 and information, as it deems necessary to carry out the
 2 functions and duties imposed on it by this title.

3 “(d) REPORT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—The
 4 Commission shall submit to the Senate a report containing
 5 a detailed explanation and justification of each rule and
 6 regulation of the Commission under this title. No such
 7 rule, regulation, or form may take effect until a period
 8 of 30 calendar days has elapsed after the report is re-
 9 ceived. As used in this subsection, the terms ‘rule’ and
 10 ‘regulation’ mean a provision or series of interrelated pro-
 11 visions stating a single, separable rule of law.”

12 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 13 this section shall apply to elections occurring after Decem-
 14 ber 31, 1998.

15 **TITLE II—REDUCTION IN** 16 **SPECIAL INTEREST INFLUENCE**

17 **SEC. 201. SOFT MONEY OF POLITICAL PARTIES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of FECA (2 U.S.C. 301
 19 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 **“SEC. 324. SOFT MONEY OF POLITICAL PARTIES.**

21 “(a) NATIONAL COMMITTEES.—A national commit-
 22 tee of a political party (including a national congressional
 23 campaign committee of a political party, an entity that
 24 is established, financed, maintained, or controlled by the
 25 national committee, a national congressional campaign

1 committee of a political party, and an officer or agent of
2 any such party or entity but not including an entity regu-
3 lated under subsection (b)) shall not solicit or receive any
4 contributions, donations, or transfers of funds, or spend
5 any funds, not subject to the limitations, prohibitions, and
6 reporting requirements of this Act.

7 “(b) STATE, DISTRICT, AND LOCAL COMMITTEES.—

8 “(1) LIMITATION.—Any amount that is ex-
9 pended or disbursed by a State, district, or local
10 committee of a political party (including an entity
11 that is established, financed, maintained, or con-
12 trolled by a State, district, or local committee of a
13 political party and an agent or officer of any such
14 committee or entity) during a calendar year in which
15 a Federal election is held, for any activity that might
16 affect the outcome of a Federal election, including
17 any voter registration or get-out-the-vote activity,
18 any generic campaign activity, and any communica-
19 tion that identifies a candidate (regardless of wheth-
20 er a candidate for State or local office is also men-
21 tioned or identified) shall be made from funds sub-
22 ject to the limitations, prohibitions, and reporting
23 requirements of this Act.

24 “(2) ACTIVITY NOT INCLUDED IN PARAGRAPH
25 (1).—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall
2 not apply to an expenditure or disbursement
3 made by a State, district, or local committee of
4 a political party for—

5 “(i) a contribution to a candidate for
6 State or local office if the contribution is
7 not designated or otherwise earmarked to
8 pay for an activity described in paragraph
9 (1);

10 “(ii) the costs of a State, district, or
11 local political convention;

12 “(iii) the non-Federal share of a
13 State, district, or local party committee’s
14 administrative and overhead expenses (but
15 not including the compensation in any
16 month of any individual who spends more
17 than 20 percent of the individual’s time on
18 activity during the month that may affect
19 the outcome of a Federal election) except
20 that for purposes of this paragraph, the
21 non-Federal share of a party committee’s
22 administrative and overhead expenses shall
23 be determined by applying the ratio of the
24 non-Federal disbursements to the total

1 Federal expenditures and non-Federal dis-
2 bursements made by the committee during
3 the previous presidential election year to
4 the committee's administrative and over-
5 head expenses in the election year in ques-
6 tion;

7 “(iv) the costs of grassroots campaign
8 materials, including buttons, bumper stick-
9 ers, and yard signs that name or depict
10 only a candidate for State or local office;
11 and

12 “(v) the cost of any campaign activity
13 conducted solely on behalf of a clearly
14 identified candidate for State or local of-
15 fice, if the candidate activity is not an ac-
16 tivity described in paragraph (1).

17 “(B) FUNDRAISING.—Any amount that is
18 expended or disbursed by a national, State, dis-
19 trict, or local committee, by an entity that is es-
20 tablished, financed, maintained, or controlled by
21 a State, district, or local committee of a politi-
22 cal party, or by an agent or officer of any such
23 committee or entity to raise funds that are
24 used, in whole or in part, to pay the costs of
25 an activity described in subparagraph (A) shall

1 be made from funds subject to the limitations,
2 prohibitions, and reporting requirements of this
3 Act.

4 “(c) TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS.—No national,
5 State, district, or local committee of a political party shall
6 solicit any funds for or make any donations to an organi-
7 zation that is exempt from Federal taxation under section
8 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

9 “(d) CANDIDATES.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
11 graph (2), no candidate, individual holding Federal
12 office, or agent of a candidate or individual holding
13 Federal office may—

14 “(A) solicit or receive funds in connection
15 with an election for Federal office unless the
16 funds are subject to the limitations, prohibi-
17 tions, and reporting requirements of this Act;
18 or

19 “(B) solicit or receive funds that are to be
20 expended in connection with any election for
21 other than a Federal election unless the
22 funds—

23 “(i) are not in excess of the amounts
24 permitted with respect to contributions to

1 candidates and political committees under
 2 section 315(a) (1) and (2); and

3 “(ii) are not from sources prohibited
 4 by this Act from making contributions with
 5 respect to an election for Federal office.

6 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) does not
 7 apply to the solicitation or receipt of funds by an in-
 8 dividual who is a candidate for a State or local office
 9 if the solicitation or receipt of funds is permitted
 10 under State law for the individual’s State or local
 11 campaign committee.”

12 (b) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

13 (1) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 304
 14 of FECA (2 U.S.C. 434) is amended by adding at
 15 the end the following:

16 “(d) POLITICAL COMMITTEES.—

17 “(1) NATIONAL AND CONGRESSIONAL POLITI-
 18 CAL COMMITTEES.—The national committee of a po-
 19 litical party, any congressional campaign committee
 20 of a political party, and any subordinate committee
 21 of either, shall report all receipts and disbursements
 22 during the reporting period, whether or not in con-
 23 nection with an election for Federal office.

24 “(2) OTHER POLITICAL COMMITTEES TO WHICH
 25 SECTION 324 APPLIES.—A political committee (not

described in paragraph (1)) to which section 324(b)(1) applies shall report all receipts and disbursements whether or not the receipts are received or disbursements are made in connection with a Federal election.

“(3) TRANSFERS.—In a report under paragraph (1) or (2), a political committee shall—

“(A) include any amount received by a national committee that is to be transferred to a State committee for use directly for (or primarily to support) activities described in section 324(b)(2); and

“(B) itemize such amounts to the extent required by subsection (b)(3)(A).

“(4) OTHER POLITICAL COMMITTEES.—Any political committee to which paragraph (1) or (2) does not apply shall report any receipts or disbursements that are used in connection with a Federal election.

“(5) ITEMIZATION.—If a political committee has receipts or disbursements to which this subsection applies from any person aggregating in excess of \$200 for any calendar year, the political committee shall separately itemize its reporting for such person in the same manner as required in paragraphs (3)(A), (5), and (6) of subsection (b).

1 “(6) REPORTING PERIODS.—Reports required
2 to be filed under this subsection shall be filed for the
3 same time periods required for political committees
4 under subsection (a).”

5 (2) REPORT OF EXEMPT CONTRIBUTIONS.—
6 Section 301(8) of the FECA (2 U.S.C. 431(8)) is
7 amended by inserting at the end the following:

8 “(C) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The ex-
9 clusion provided in subparagraph (B)(viii) shall
10 not apply for purposes of any requirement to
11 report contributions under this Act, and all
12 such contributions aggregating in excess of
13 \$200 shall be reported.”

14 (3) REPORTS BY STATE COMMITTEES.—Section
15 304 of FECA (2 U.S.C. 434) (as amended by sub-
16 section (a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(e) FILING OF STATE REPORTS.—In lieu of any re-
19 port required to be filed by this Act, the Commission may
20 allow a State committee of a political party to file with
21 the Commission a report required to be filed under State
22 law if the Commission determines such reports contain
23 substantially the same information.”

24 (4) OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (A) AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES.—Section
 2 304(b)(4) of FECA (2 U.S.C. 434(b)(4)) is
 3 amended—

4 (i) by striking “and” at the end of
 5 subparagraph (H);

6 (ii) by inserting “and” at the end of
 7 subparagraph (I); and

8 (iii) by adding at the end the follow-
 9 ing new subparagraph:

10 “(J) in the case of an authorized commit-
 11 tee, disbursements for the primary election, the
 12 general election, and any other election in which
 13 the candidate participates;”.

14 (B) NAMES AND ADDRESSES.—Section
 15 304(b)(5)(A) of FECA (2 U.S.C. 434(b)(5)(A))
 16 is amended—

17 (i) by striking “within the calendar
 18 year”; and

19 (ii) by inserting “, and the election to
 20 which the operating expenditure relates”
 21 after “operating expenditure”.

22 **SEC. 202. DEFINITION OF INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE.**

23 Section 301 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
 24 of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431) is amended by striking paragraph
 25 (17) and inserting the following:

1 “(17) INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “independ-
3 ent expenditure” means an expenditure by a
4 person other than a candidate or candidate’s
5 authorized committee—

6 “(i) that is made for a communication
7 that contains express advocacy; and

8 “(ii) is made without the participation
9 or cooperation of and without coordination
10 with a candidate.

11 “(B) EXPRESS ADVOCACY.—The term ‘ex-
12 press advocacy’ means a communication advo-
13 cating the election or defeat of a clearly identi-
14 fied candidate and includes any communication
15 that—

16 “(i)(I) contains a phrase such as ‘vote
17 for’, ‘re-elect’, ‘support’, ‘cast your ballot
18 for’, ‘(name of candidate) for Congress’,
19 ‘(name of candidate) in 1997’, ‘vote
20 against’, ‘defeat’, ‘reject’;

21 “(II) recommends a position on an
22 issue and clearly identifies 1 or more can-
23 didates as supporting or opposing that po-
24 sition; or

1 “(III) contains campaign slogans or
 2 individual words that in context can have
 3 no reasonable meaning other than to rec-
 4 ommend the election or defeat of 1 or more
 5 clearly identified candidates;

6 “(ii) clearly identifies 1 or more can-
 7 didates and is broadcast by a radio broad-
 8 cast station or a television broadcast sta-
 9 tion (including a cable system) within 60
 10 calendar days preceding the date of an
 11 election (or with respect to a candidate for
 12 the office of Vice President or President in
 13 a general election, within 90 calendar days
 14 preceding the date of the general election);
 15 or

16 “(iii) taken as a whole and with lim-
 17 ited reference to external events, such as
 18 proximity to an election, expresses unmis-
 19 takable support for or opposition to 1 or
 20 more clearly identified candidates.

21 “(C) WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OR
 22 COOPERATION OF AND WITHOUT COORDINATION
 23 WITH A CANDIDATE.—The term ‘without the
 24 participation or cooperation of and without co-
 25 ordination with a candidate’, with respect to an

1 expenditure, means an expenditure that is
2 made—

3 “(i) without any request or suggestion
4 from or any involvement of a candidate or
5 candidate’s representative;

6 “(ii) without the involvement of any
7 person who, during the election cycle in
8 which the expenditure is made, has raised
9 funds on behalf of the candidate, counseled
10 or advised the candidate or the candidate’s
11 representative regarding the election (other
12 than to provide legal and accounting serv-
13 ices to ensure compliance with this Act),
14 engaged in campaign-related research or
15 polling analysis with respect to the elec-
16 tion, or communicated with or received in-
17 formation from the candidate or the can-
18 didate’s representative about the can-
19 didate’s plans, resources, expenditures, or
20 needs regarding the election; and

21 “(iii) without the involvement of any
22 person who received compensation, during
23 the election cycle in which the expenditure
24 is made, from the candidate or candidate’s

1 representative and from the person making
 2 the independent expenditure.”.

3 **SEC. 203. PROHIBITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS BY FOREIGN**
 4 **NATIONALS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 319(a) of the Federal
 6 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441e(a)) is
 7 amended to read as follows:

8 “(a) PROHIBITIONS.—

9 “(1) FOREIGN NATIONALS.—It shall be unlaw-
 10 ful for a foreign national, either directly or through
 11 another person—

12 “(A) to make any contribution of money or
 13 other thing of value, or to promise expressly or
 14 impliedly to make any such contribution, in
 15 connection with an election to any political of-
 16 fice or in connection with any primary election,
 17 convention, or caucus held to select candidates
 18 for any political office; or

19 “(B) to solicit, accept, or receive any such
 20 contribution.

21 “(2) OTHER PERSONS.—It shall be unlawful for
 22 any person to solicit, accept, or receive any contribu-
 23 tion from a foreign national.”

24 (b) DEFINITION OF FOREIGN NATIONAL.—Section
 25 319(b) of FECA (2 U.S.C. 441e(b)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “and who is not lawfully admit-
 2 ted for permanent residence, as defined by section
 3 101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
 4 (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20))”, and
 5 (2) by inserting “FOREIGN NATIONAL.—” after
 6 “(b)”.

7 **SEC. 204. BROADCAST MEDIA RATES.**

8 Section 315(b) of the Communications Act of 1934
 9 (47 U.S.C. 315(b)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “if the com-
 11 munication or advertisement is 1 minute or longer
 12 and contains a clearly identifiable photographic or
 13 similar image of the candidate during at least 75
 14 percent of the broadcast time” after “for the same
 15 period”; and

16 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and for
 17 communications other than those described in para-
 18 graph (1)” after “at any other time”.

19 **TITLE III—INCREASE IN VOTER**
 20 **PARTICIPATION**

21 **SEC. 301. CREDIT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONGRES-**
 22 **SIONAL CANDIDATES.**

23 (a) GENERAL RULE.—Subpart A of part IV of sub-
 24 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
 25 1986 (relating to nonrefundable personal credits) is

1 amended by inserting after section 23 the following new
2 section:

3 **“SEC. 24. CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONGRESSIONAL CAN-**
4 **DIDATES.**

5 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—In the case of an individual,
6 there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed
7 by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to
8 the total of contributions to candidates for the office of
9 Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident
10 Commissioner to, the Congress.

11 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—

12 “(1) MAXIMUM CREDIT.—The credit allowed by
13 subsection (a) for a taxable year shall not exceed
14 \$100 (\$200 in the case of a joint return under sec-
15 tion 6013).

16 “(2) VERIFICATION.—The credit allowed by
17 subsection (a) shall be allowed, with respect to any
18 contribution, only if such contribution is verified in
19 such manner as the Secretary shall prescribe by reg-
20 ulations.

21 “(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
22 term ‘contribution’ has the meaning given that term in
23 section 301 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of
24 1971.”

25 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) Section 642 of such Code (relating to spe-
 2 cial rules for credits and deductions of estates or
 3 trusts) is amended by adding at the end the follow-
 4 ing new subsection:

5 “(j) CREDIT FOR CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS NOT AL-
 6 LOWED.—An estate or trust shall not be allowed the credit
 7 against tax provided by section 24.”

8 (2) The table of sections for subpart A of part
 9 IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is
 10 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 11 tion 23 the following new item:

 “Sec. 24. Contributions to congressional candidates.”

12 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 13 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
 14 December 31, 1996.

15 **SEC. 302. STUDY ON VOTER PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL**
 16 **ELECTIONS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Election Commission
 18 shall conduct a study (or arrange for a study to be con-
 19 ducted) of current voter participation and methods to in-
 20 crease voter participation in Federal elections.

21 (b) ISSUES STUDIED.—The issues to be studied shall
 22 include—

23 (1) the efficacy of current efforts to increase
 24 voter participation, including extended polling place

1 hours, early polling place hours, and mail-in ballot
2 elections;

3 (2) a review of election laws of other countries
4 and an analysis of why those voter participation
5 rates differ from the United States; and

6 (3) proposals for methods to increase voter par-
7 ticipation in Federal elections.

8 (c) REPORT.—

9 (1) CONTENTS.—The Federal Election Com-
10 mission shall prepare a report containing the find-
11 ings and conclusions of the study and recommenda-
12 tions for methods to increase voter participation in
13 Federal elections.

14 (2) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than 1
15 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the re-
16 port shall be submitted to the Committee on Appro-
17 priations and the Committee on Rules of the Senate
18 and the Committee on Appropriations and the Com-
19 mittee on House Oversight of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives.

21 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated \$150,000 to carry out
23 the provisions of this section.

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